

N.C. Division of Aging and Adult Services Administrative Letter No. 05-07
Adult Services Section

Date: September 1, 2005

Subject: Change in SA Payment Rate for SA In-Home Cases

Distribution: County Directors
Special Assistance Supervisors
Adult Services Supervisors

Effective Date: October 1, 2005

I. Background and Content of Change

Session Law 2005-276 was ratified on August 13, 2005. The law contains a provision to increase the Special Assistance In-Home (SA/IH) maximum payment amount from 50% of the 2002 SA Adult Care Home (SA/ACH) maintenance amount of \$1,127 to 75% of the current Adult Care Home maintenance amount beginning October 1, 2005. The SA/ACH maintenance amount effective October 1, 2005 is \$1,164 per month. The purpose of this letter is to advise how this change affects SA/IH cases.

Note: SA/IH recipients who currently receive a payment that is less than 50% of the 2002 SA/ACH maintenance amount should not need any action solely due to this change. However, SA/IH recipients who are currently receiving the maximum allowable payment would benefit from a reassessment to determine if an increased or supplemental payment should be issued based on the rate effective October 1, 2005.

II. Active SA/IH Cases (Ambulation Capacity Code "H"), Maximum SA/IH Payment Effective October 1, 2005

Determine the need for an increase in the SA/IH payment for SA/IH applicant/recipients effective October 1, 2005. Beginning October 1, 2005 the new maximum payment amount for SA/IH recipients may not exceed 75% of the new ongoing Basic SA/ACH Maintenance Amount, \$1,164 (\$1,118 ACH Rate + \$46 Personal Needs allowance = \$1,164).

The appropriate SA/IH payment may be less than the new maximum allowable SA/IH payment. The final SA/IH payment is based upon the assessment and service plan of the Adult Services case manager. The SA caseworker and the Adult Services case manager will collaborate to determine the actual SA/IH payment amount.

If it is determined the SA/IH recipient should receive an increased payment for the period beginning October 1, 2005:

1. For October 2005 and all ongoing months, manually update EIS to reflect the new payment amounts by the pull check deadline for October benefits.
2. If needed, request supplemental checks for any retroactive months on the DMA-5022.
3. The maximum SA/IH maintenance amount effective October 1, 2005 in EIS is \$1,073.
4. Send a DSS-8110/DSS-8110s Adequate Notice, Change in Benefits, notifying the recipient of the increased payment amount.

III. Pending SA/IH Applications with a Date of Application Prior to October 1, 2005

- A. If eligible, determine the maximum SA/IH payment for all months/days prior to October 1, 2005 using the rate of 50% of the 2002 maximum SA/ACH maintenance amount of \$1,127.
- B. If eligible, determine the new maximum SA/IH payment effective October 1, 2005 using the rate of 75% of the maximum ACH payment based on the maintenance amount of \$1,164. The actual payment may be less than this amount, based on the assessment and service plan of the Adult Services Case Manager.

IV. Pending SA/IH Applications with a Date of Application October 1, 2005 or later.

- A. If eligible, calculate the new maximum SA/IH payment amount, which may be up to 75% of the SA/ACH maintenance amount of \$1,164. Calculate the payment amount as follows:
 1. Compute the a/r's Total Countable Monthly Income (TCMI). This is the amount of countable income after all allowable deductions and exclusions. See SA-3210 for instructions on calculating TCMI.
 2. Subtract the TCMI from the October 2005 SA/ACH maintenance amount, which is \$1,164 (\$1,118.00 + \$46 personal needs allowance).
 3. Multiply the result by .75. Round to the nearest whole dollar.
 4. The result is the maximum allowable payment.

The actual payment may be less than this amount, based on the assessment and service plan of the Adult Services Case Manager. The SA/IH payment added to

the TCMI is the maintenance amount keyed into EIS. **See the following examples:**

<u>Examples:</u>	<u>SSI Recipient</u>	<u>Non-SSI Recipient</u>
October 2005 SA/ACH Maintenance Amount	\$1,164	\$1,164
Subtract TCMI	- \$559	- \$644
Balance	\$605	\$520
Multiply times .75	x .75	x.75
Round to nearest dollar	\$453.75	\$390.00
Maximum SA/IH payment, after rounding:	\$454.00	\$390.00
EIS maintenance amount	\$1,013	\$1,034

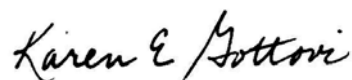
- B. Determine Partial Payments for SA/IH applications effective after the first day of the month as follows:
1. Determine the number of days in the month of application.
 2. Determine the numbers of days of eligibility for the SA/IH payment. This is the number of days in the month minus the date of eligibility plus 1.
 3. To determine the maximum SA/IH partial payment, multiply the SA/ACH maintenance amount, \$1,164, times .75.
 4. Divide that amount by the number of days in the month, and round to the nearest cent. This is the per diem amount.
 5. Multiply the per diem amount times the number of days of eligibility in the month. Round that amount to the nearest dollar for the maximum partial payment.

V. Redeterminations and Changes in Situation October 1, 2005 or later

For regular reviews and for changes in situation, if eligible, determine the maximum SA/IH payment using 75% of the SA/ACH maintenance amount effective October 1, 2005, which is \$1,164 (1,118 ACH rate + \$46 Personal Needs Allowance = \$1,164). See IV above for payment calculation instructions.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact your Adult Programs Representative, or either Brenda Porter, SA Program Coordinator, or Geoff Santoliquido, SA Program Administrator at 919-733-3818.

Sincerely,



Karen E. Gottovi, Director